

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /100 W  
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R 070900Z SEP 78  
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4588  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 STUTTGART 1654

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSAREUR FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: MINISTER-PRESIDENT SPAETH'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH  
THE LANDTAG

REF: A) STUTTGART 1629 B) STUTTGART 1601

1. SUMMARY. MAIN OUTCOME OF NEW MINISTER-PRESIDENT SPAETH'S  
INITIAL APPEARANCE BEFORE THE BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG LANDTAG IS  
NEW LOOK IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATURE  
AND AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES. ALL SEEMED DETERMINED TO TRY TO  
BURY THE HATCHET AFTER THE FILBINGER AFFAIR. THE HONEYMOON MAY  
NOT LAST, BUT SPAETH'S OFF TO NOT A BAD START. END SUMMARY.

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2. LOTHAR SPAETH MADE HIS MAIDEN SPEECH TO THE LANDTAG ON  
AUGUST 31, THE DAY AFTER HE WAS SWORN IN BEFORE THE LANDTAG AS  
BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG'S NEW MINISTER-PRESIDENT. AS INDICATED  
REFTEL (A), THE SPEECH WAS FAIRLY NONCOMMITTAL AND INITIAL  
REACTION BY THE PRESS AND POLITICAL LEADERS WHO WERE INTERVIEWED  
WAS ONE OF SOME DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE SPEECH WAS SO SHORT ON

SUBSTANCE.

3. AT THE OUTSET OF HIS SPEECH SPAETH SPOKE OUT IN SUPPORT OF HIS PREDECESSOR, HANS FILBINGER, WHO HAD BEEN FORCED TO RESIGN FOLLOWING THE CONTROVERSY OVER HIS PAST ACTIONS UNDER THE NAZI REGIME. HOWEVER, SPAETH WAS EMPHATIC THAT THE CONTROVERSY WHICH HAD SO LONG SURROUNDED FILBINGER'S PAST SHOULD NOW BE CONSIDERED OVER AND HE SAID HE (SPAETH) WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO DO HIS PART TO HELP IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LAND GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION.

4. SPAETH SAID HE PROPOSED TO CONTINUE THE POLICIES PURSUED BY HIS PREDECESSOR. HE DID NOT OUTLINE A DETAILED PROGRAM FOR HIS GOVERNMENT BUT TOUCHED ON VARIOUS AREAS TO WHICH HE ATTACHED IMPORTANCE. HE INTENDED TO COMBAT CITIZENS' DIFFIDENCE TOWARD PARTY AND STATE BY PROMOTING GREATER CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE AT THE GRASS ROOTS LEVEL. WHILE ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS ESSENTIAL HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE PROMOTED AT ANY PRICE, NOR DID HE FEEL THAT THE LAND GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRESUME TO TRY TO DIRECT SUCH GROWTH. WITH REFERENCE TO THE "RADICAL DECREE," RESTRICTING EMPLOYMENT OF EXTREMISTS IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, ABOUT WHICH THERE HAS BEEN SOME RECENT PUBLIC DEBATE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG, SPAETH SAID THAT WHILE HE FIRMLY BELIEVED KEEPING ENEMIES OF THE CONSTITUTION OUT OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE DECREE SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BLINDLY OR WITH OBSESSIVE CONCERN FOR SECURITY.

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5. IMMEDIATE REACTION OF POLITICAL LEADERS TO THE SPAETH SPEECH WAS GUARDED AND, LIKE THE SPEECH ITSELF, VERY GENERAL. SPD AND FDP SPOKESMEN DID NOTE THAT THE TONE WAS FRIENDLY. THE CONSIDERED REACTION OF THE POLITICAL FACTIONS TO THE SPAETH SPEECH WAS CONVEYED AT THE SEPT. 4 SESSION OF THE LANDTAG. TEUFEL, CDU FACTION LEADER, SAID THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE CDU COMPOSITION OF THE LAND GOVERNMENT, THE CDU FACTION PROPOSED TO MAINTAIN ITS FULL INDEPENDENCE IN CONTROLLING THAT GOVERNMENT AND ITS MINISTER-PRESIDENT -- JUST AS THE CDU FACTION HAD DONE, RECALLED TEUFEL, WHEN SPAETH HAD BEEN ITS LEADER. THE REMARKS OF EPPLER, SPD LAND CHAIRMAN AND FACTION LEADER, WERE WIDELY COMMENTED ON FOR THEIR FRIENDLINESS AND LACK OF POLEMIC. SPAETH, HE SAID, SEEMED FULL OF GOOD INTENTIONS THAT HELD OUT HOPE OF REALIZATIONS NOT POSSIBLE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. HE DISAGREED WITH SPAETH ON SOME POINTS; HE FELT THAT THE LAND GOVERNMENT COULD NOT JUST LEAVE THE LOCAL ECONOMY RUDDERLESS AND WITHOUT ANY INFLUENCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND HE ALSO EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ON SPAETH'S DECISION TO ADD THREE NEW STATE SECRETARIES (REF B) TO HIS CABINET. EPPLER URGED REFORM OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO PRODUCE MORE INITIATIVE AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND HE ALSO SAID HE WAS OPPOSED TO THE RADICAL DECREE. (COMMENT: IT

HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE RADICAL DECREE WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF DEBATE AT THE NEXT SITTING OF THE LANDTAG, FOR WHICH NO DATE HAS YET BEEN FIXED.) MORLOK, FDP LAND CHAIRMAN AND FACTION LEADER, SAID THAT SPAETH'S ACCESSION TO THE MINISTER-PRESIDENCY SHOULD BE THE OCCASION FOR A FRESH START IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE LANDTAG. HE SUPPORTED SPAETH'S VIEWS ON INTERESTING THE CITIZENRY MORE IN THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT, THOUGH HE SAID HE WAS OPPOSED TO ATTEMPTS TO OVER-REGULATE THE CITIZENS AND CREATE A "PERFECT," REGIMENTED SOCIETY, E.G., ALSO PROBABLY AN ALLUSION TO THE RADICAL DECREE.

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 STUTTGART 1654

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSAREUR FOR POLADS

6. THE PRESS, IN COMMENTING ON SPAETH'S AUGUST 31 SPEECH, NOTED THAT HE DISMISSED IN TWO SHORT SENTENCES SUCH KEY ISSUES AS THE GASTARBEITER PROBLEM AND THE UNIVERSITIES. BUT PERHAPS, WROTE THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, SPAETH COULD BE FORGIVEN FOR BEING SHORT ON SPECIFICS IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH TO THE LANDTAG. HE WAS, SAID THE ZEITUNG, INEVITABLY FORCED INTO SOME DANGEROUS BRINKMANSHIP BY VIRTUE OF THE INFLUENCE FILBINGER STILL EXERCISES WITH SOME OF THE MORE CONSERVATIVE

ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PARTY. SPAETH CAN THEREFORE PERHAPS BE EXCUSED FOR NOT DARING TO GO MUCH BEYOND PLATITUDES IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC SPEECH AS MINISTER-PRESIDENT, SAID THE ZEITUNG.

7. COMMENT - WHAT WAS MOST EVIDENT DURING THE SEPT. 4 SITTING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE LANDTAG, AND WHAT WAS WIDELY COMMENTED ON AFTERWARDS, WAS THE COMPLETE CHANGE IN CLIMATE WITHIN THAT BODY WHEN FACED WITH NEW MINISTER-PRESIDENT SPAETH. THERE SEEMED A DESIRE ON THE PART OF ALL CONCERNED TO BURY THE HATCHET, TO FORGO, WHILE PRESERVING THE ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP OF GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE INTERPARTISAN BITTERNESS AND ANIMOSITY WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED LANDTAG PROCEEDINGS SO OFTEN IN THE RECENT PAST. (EPPLER, ONE OF THE MORE EMOTIONAL AND OUTSPOKEN CRITICS OF FILBINGER AND THE CDU IN THE PAST, EVEN CROSSED THE CHAMBER TO PRESENT A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS TO CDU LEADER TEUFEL AND WISH HIM A HAPPY BIRTHDAY.) THIS HAPPY TRUCE WITHIN THE LANDTAG MAY NOT, AND PROBABLY WON'T, CONTINUE FOR LONG AS PARTISAN CONVICTIONS RENEW EXCITATIONS OF TEMPERS AND TONGUES. TOO, THE CHANGE OF MOOD WITHIN THE LANDTAG AND IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE EXECUTIVE MAY BE NO MORE THAN A MOMENTARY SIGH OF RELIEF OVER THE PASSING FROM THE SCENE OF MINISTER-PRESIDENT FILBINGER, WHO WAS ADDICTED TO TALKING DOWN TO THE LANDTAG NO LESS THAN TO THE PRESS. ANYWAY, REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG THE HONEYMOON LASTS, SPAETH SEEMS TO BE OFF TO A GOOD START IN HIS OWN RELATIONS WITH THE LANDTAG. MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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